

**REMARKS**

The allowance of claims 9 and 11 is gratefully acknowledged by the Applicant.

Claims 1 and 10 have been canceled in this paper. New claims 12-19 have been added. The application contains claims 9, and 11-19, of which claims 9 and 11 have been allowed. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 7-037329. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1 and 10 have been canceled to further the prosecution of the application. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

New claims 12-19 have been added and are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Claim 12, for example, recites a light receiving unit integrally comprising "a plurality of light receiving elements; and a processing circuit." According to claim 12, "said processing circuit includes a plurality of current-to-voltage converters configured to convert current signals output from each of the light receiving elements into voltage signals, an adder configured to add the voltage signals to obtain an added voltage signal, and an attenuator configured to attenuate the added voltage signal or, an operation unit that includes the adder and the attenuator." In addition, "the voltage signals output from the current-to-voltage converters and a voltage signal output from the attenuator or the operation unit are output from the light receiving unit."

Applicant respectfully submits that JP 7-037329, on the other hand, merely proposes a general structure of an optical-disk drive apparatus having a movable portion and a fixed portion.

One object of the claimed invention is to overcome the problems associated with the superimposing of noise (i.e., signal deterioration) that occurs when signals are transmitted from a processing circuit that is provided in the optical pickup device (i.e., movable portion) to the circuit board that is provided in the fixed portion. In order to achieve this object, the light receiving unit of the claimed invention is separate (i.e., a separate body) from the circuit board that is provided in the fixed portion, and is provided in the optical pickup device. Accordingly, claim 12, for example, recites that "the voltage signals output from the current-to-voltage converters and the voltage signal output from the attenuator or the operation unit are output from the light receiving unit." That is, the signals output from the processing circuit are output outside the light receiving unit.

It is believed that the above described features of the claimed inventions are not taught in JP 7-037329. In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

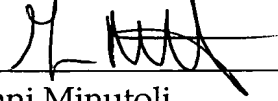
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Applicant respectfully solicits the allowance of all of the pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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